Il gatto sul G.

II

BY
TOOKO MIYAGI

June Yaoi Manga

MEOW!
HEY, TAKING A WALK OUT BY YOURSELF?
OH, DEAR. HE'S HERE AGAIN.
G-SENJOU NO NEKO
rise
WELL, THEIR NOT HOME YET. NONE OF THE LIGHTS ARE ON AT HIS PLACE
HMM... THEN NEVER-MIND.
WELL, A COLLEGE STUDENT NAMED ATSUSHI IKEDA LIVES HERE, RIGHT?
OH, ARE YOU A FRIEND OF IKEDA-SAN?
HEY, YOU THERE!
WHERE ARE YOU FROM? A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT AT THIS HOUR?

Start of a new installation!!

TELL ATSUSHI THAT I SAID HI, MA'AM.
Not knowing what's real and what's not, Riya continues to be gradually drawn into a conflict...
Episode.
G線上の猫
G-SENJOU NO NEKO
宮城とおこ
TOKO MIYAGI

※Popular selling series, Craft Comic's "G-Senjou no Neko". Those who want to know the secret of the white and black cats please keep reading! ※

One day, just before the school's concert...
LONG TIME NO SEE, MY ADORABLE, LITTLE RIYA!
Stop it, Saki-san!
I hate it when you do that!
Wipe
OH MY, SUCH AN UNFEELING CHILD.
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I'VE BEEN BACK TO JAPAN. AT THE THOUGHT OF BEING ABLE TO SEE YOU, I RUSHED HERE AS SOON AS I ARRIVED IN NARITA. AND THAT'S THE ATTITUDE I GET?
Saki Narukawa (26) My cousin.
YOU'VE BECOME SO BIG SINCE I LAST SAW YOU!
NOW LET ME GIVE YOU A KISS
Gya
THE STORY RIYA NARUKAWA, A STUDENT OF YOUN, REALIZES THAT HE SOMETIMES DOES THINGS THAT HE'S NOT AWARE OF. ATSUSHI, A COLLEGE STUDENT THAT SAVES HIM, GIVES RIYA THE KEY TO HIS APARTMENT. HOWEVER, AN UPPERCLASSMAN AT SCHOOL, KOUSAKA, FORCIBLY ADVANCES ON RIYA. THEN TELLS HIM TO RETURN THE KEY. 79

Ah ha ha ha
NEMOTO! SO YOU REALLY ARE A CAPABLE MANAGER!
SAKI-SAN SAID HE WANTED TO SEE YOU, RIYA-KUN, SO WE IMMEDIATELY CAME HERE~
The young hope of the Narukawa Music Syndicate!
You didn't have to come
Saki-san is a pianist living in New York. He's come back to Japan this time to give a concert.
HOW ARE THE PREPARATIONS FOR YOUR CONCERT? THAT'S THE REASON WHY YOU CAME BACK TO JAPAN, RIGHT?
OH, RIYA, OF COURSE YOU'LL BE COMING TO SEE ME PERFORM, RIGHT?
HUH—?
THERE'S ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT TASK FOR ME
BUT YOU KNOW I DIDN'T COME BACK JUST FOR A CONCERT THIS TIME
BLAH
ACTUALLY I'D LOVE TO PLAY MORE MODERN PIECES BUT IT SEEMS THAT IT'S NOT TOO POPULAR IN JAPAN! IT'S NOT FUN IF PEOPLE DON'T LIKE IT!
Wah,
AH, I'M SO EXCITED! I LOVE PERFORMING ON STAGE!
FIRST MY PIANO STARTS OFF WITH A DA-DA-DAN, AND THEN THE ORCHESTRA ENTERS WITH A TALI LALI LALI LALILA TALILALILA!
I'LL BE PLAYING RACHMANINOV AND CHOPIN THIS TIME
DON'T YOU HAVE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO—?
Hurry up and get to it
OH, BY THE WAY! I HEARD FROM NEMOTO THAT YOU'LL BE PERFORMING IN A CONCERT FOR TOUHOU! I'LL HAVE TO GO AND SEE YOU!

NOPE OH, LET ME ASK YOU HOW YOU'VE BEEN
IT MUST BE TOUGH STAYING HERE ALL BY YOURSELF
Plop
NO, NOT REALLY.
A MAID COMES IN AND DOES PART OF THE HOUSE-WORK
BY THE WAY, YOU REALLY SHOULD CALL BEFOREHAND IF YOU'RE GOING TO COME
HMM? BUT I DID. TWO MORNINGS AGO.
That would make it right for you, I think.
YOU ANSWERED THE PHONE TOO.
AH
SO I DID...
Sorry
OH! I ALMOST FORGOT!
HERE ARE SOME SOUVE-NIRS FOR YOU
CHOCO-L. TE.
THE ONES YOU ASKED ME TO GET WHEN I CALLED YOU.
Those are usually souve-nirs you give when you get back from Hawaii.
Oh, really?
UMM. ERR... THIS...
Hawaiian Host.
MACADAMIA NUTS
NET WT. 80z (226g) 18 PIECES
Chocolate-covered macadamia nuts

DO YOU WANT TO COME TO NEW YORK?
HEY...
...WHY ARE YOU ASKING?
IT'S NOT LIKE I GO THERE TO GOOF OFF.
...RIYA,
ARE YOU HAVING FUN AT SCHOOL?
FATHER MAY THINK IT'S TROUBLE-SOME,
BUT EVERYONE OPPOSES EVERYTHING THAT I DO.
grab
RIYA...
FATHER SAY TO DO THAT?
DID—
MY, WHAT A SCARY FACE!
NO, I JUST WANTED YOU TO BE WITH ME
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH UNCLE TAKASHI

...WHAT IS THIS?
hmmph
RIYA, YOU INTEND TO MAKE A LIVING AS A VIOLINIST, AM I RIGHT?
slip
.....
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICES OTHER THAN THAT, I'M SURE
—CAN YOU SAY WITH CERTAINTY THAT YOU WON'T DO THIS AGAIN IF LEFT TO YOURSELF?

WHAT A GOOD CHILD YOU ARE, RIYA.
OH, RIGHT RIYA-KUN
I UNDER-STAND
START
!
I GOT A CALL FROM SENSEI ...ARE YOU GOING TO COUNSELING AS YOU SHOULD?
SO HOW IS RIYA-KUN?
NOT NORMAL AT ALL
Ah, so he hasn't been going
.....
dash
I'll go first. Meet me somewhere else later.
...I'M SORRY, NEMOTO-SAN!

THE TRUTH IS I DIDN'T CALL HIM.
IF HE WERE FINE, HE'D DENY THAT I DID.
BUT SINCE HE DIDN'T, IT MEANS THAT THERE IS SOME AMBIGUITY IN HIS MEMORY
SAKI-SAN, IS IT REALLY ALRIGHT FOR THAT TO CONTINUE?
HM?
YOU KNOW, WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT.
THE REASON WHY RIYA-KUN CUT HIS OWN HAND... RIYA HAD HOPED TO STUDY ABROAD THROUGH ONE OF TOUHOU'S EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, BUT THEN NARUKAWA-SENSEI...
UM...
BECAUSE HE RUINED THOSE PLANS, HUH. Orchestrating behind the scenes
WELL, UNCLE IS FAIRLY CHILDISH TOO...
DON'T YOU SUPPOSE HE GOT ANGRY AT THE FACT THAT RIYA DECIDED ON IT ALL ON HIS OWN?
WELL...
BUT THERE'S NO HELPING IT.
CLICK
I SAID SO EARLIER HE HAS NO OTHER CHOICES.

—I DON'T REMEMBER AT ALL.
SHORT OF PRODUCING RESULTS, THERE IS NO OTHER WAY FOR HIM TO GAIN A PLACE HERE.
—HE IS A HERESY AMONG THE NARUKAWA FAMILY.
WHAT IS THIS?
NARU-CHAN?
Ah
-AN
.....
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU WERE SPACING OUT.
DIDN'T GET ENOUGH SLEEP? THE CONCERT IS COMING UP SOON
YOU EVEN PRACTICE AT HOME, RIGHT?
SU-GIURA-SENPAI
I WAS CHOSEN AS DELEGATE FOR THE CONCERT.

SINCE KOUSAKA-SENPAI REFUSED THE POSITION
THERE'S REALLY NO REASON TO KEEP KOUSAKA AS A STAND-IN FOR YOU
YOU'VE BEEN PRACTIC-ING SO SERIOUSLY FOR IT
STILL, THEY KEEP A STAND-IN FOR ME BECAUSE THEY'RE ANTICIPATING INSTABILITY IN MY MENTAL STATE
SINCE IT WILL BE PROBLEMATIC IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME ON THE DAY OF THE CONCERT
NARU-CHAN?
ARE YOU OK? YOU DON'T LOOK VERY WELL. ARE YOU TIRED?
.....
SU-GIURA-SENPAI
AM I UM... STRANGE...?

STRANGE? AS IN?
UM, WELL, LIKE IF I SUDDENLY SAY STRANGE THINGS OR SOMETHING...
HUH? LIKE WHAT?
AH, NEVER-MIND IT'S NOTHING
blush
I FEEL AS IF IT'S BECOME WORSE AND WORSE
——EVER SINCE THAT NIGHT
OH, NO I LEFT MY MUSIC IN THE CLASSROOM LET ME GO AND GET IT
OPEN
HELLO
.....
EVER SINCE THAT THING HAPPENED WITH HIM...

SLAM!
Si——————lence
HEY, YOU'RE LATE!
I TOLD YOU TO COME TO PRACTICE EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE JUST A STAND-IN!
I'm here, aren't I?
ALRIGHT, I'LL BE HEADING TO THE CLASS-ROOM NOW, SO GET READY UNTIL I GET BACK.
Erm
Don't leave me alone with him.
Uh
.....
.....UM, WELL
WE'LL BE PRACTICING FROM THE THIRD MOVEMENT TODAY.
fi—nch

SLAP
W-WHAT...?
.....
A PIECE OF HAIR.
.....
BRUSH
—NO NEED TO GET SCARED.
.....!
Brush
REMEMBER TO RETURN THAT KEY
.....
SQUEEZE
...I CAN'T BE SWEPT UP BY ALL THESE THINGS

IF I DON'T SEE YOU NOW... THEN...
...AH, IKEDA-SAN
IKEDA-SAN!
AH, MS. LANDLADY HELLO...
Good afternoon
IKEDA-SAN, HOLD ON! LATELY YOU'VE BEEN RETURNING HOME LATE. WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?
?
AH, I'M ON THE LATE SHIFT FOR MY PART-TIME JOB NOW
WELL, IT'S SORT OF A NUISANCE, PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT
?
BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN, THERE'S BEEN A BOY LOITERING AROUND THE AREA
A JUNIOR HIGH OR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT...
IS HE SOMEONE YOU KNOW?
UM... IS HE SKINNY AND ABOUT THIS TALL...?
YES! HE DIDN'T LOOK TO BE FROM AROUND HERE... BUT HE WASN'T REALLY CAUSING ANY TROUBLE,
SO I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS A NEED TO INVOLVE THE POLICE... BUT SINCE YOU KNOW HIM...

..RIYA..
Oh
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST GO INSIDE AND WAIT? YOU HAVE THE KEY
ATSU-SHI
Hey!
catch
.....?
RIYA?
I DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE
I CAME TO RETURN IT

mochi*mochi
http://mochiharusame.net
#kodochaeirchighway.net

YOU TOLD HIM OVER THE PHONE TO COME OVER WHENEVER HE WANTED
DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO TALK TO HIM?
WELL-
HUH? HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT I TOLD HIM?
Time One Kitten
YOU TALKED TO HIM, RIGHT?
THAT THERE ARE TWO PERSONALITIES WITHIN ME
AND WHAT HE DOES WHILE I'M NOT PRESENT EVERYTHING
I'M NOT THE SAME AS I WAS BEFORE
I KNOW EVERYTHING
I DON'T FEEL LIKE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING SO POINTLESS NOW.
DON'T ASK ME ANYTHING DUMB LIKE HOW IT HAPPENED
RI-...

I'M ME HE'S HIM!
I DON'T WANT TO BE CONSIDERED THE SAME AS HIM. WHAT PART OF THAT DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND!?
I MEAN, I DON'T THINK OF YOU TWO AS SEPARATE FROM ONE ANOTHER
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
I DID SAY THAT
BUT I DIDN'T SAY IT PARTICULARLY TO JUST ONE OF YOU
BY THE WAY, I KNOW EVERYTHING THAT GOES ON WITH HIM, BUT HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW A THING ABOUT MY EXISTENCE!
IF HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING, THEN THERE'S PRACTICALLY NO NEED FOR HIM!
HEY, WAIT WHAT IS IT THAT YOU DISLIKE SO MUCH?
ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU LIKE HIM BETTER?

HE SLEPT WITH A GUY.
HMPH. FINE. LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING INTERESTING.
NO, I'M NOT SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT THE EITHER OF YOU.
Stiffened
CAN YOU FACE A GUY LIKE THAT WITH THAT SAME NICE-GUY EXPRESSION YOU HAVE? IF YOU CAN, THEN YOU SURE ARE THE GOOD SAMARITAN!
ISN'T THAT STUPID?
HE'S HAD PASSES MADE AT HIM. THEN HE CARELESSLY GOES TO THAT UPPERCLASSMAN'S HOME AND GETS EATEN.

Shriek!
I TOLD YOU! I WASN'T THE ONE WHO DID IT. WHY THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW?
?
?
...EH? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...?
WHY THAT AGAIN...?
.....
Stiffened ← again.
FORGET IT! ANYWAY, I'M NEVER GONNA SEE YOU AGAIN!
YOU BETRAYED ME WITH WHAT YOU DID
I'M NOT SO OPEN-HEARTED TO FORGIVE THAT KIND OF THING!
Pissed
IF SO, WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME OUT AND SAY...
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO CAME TO MY SCHOOL, RIGHT?
DIDN'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?
Shut up!
.....
...THAT'S NOT TRUE, IS IT?
Loud!
!

. . . JUST LEAVE IT.
THE WANDERING CAT LEFT AFTER SHOUTING HIS PARTING REMARK.
I REALLY WON'T COME HERE ANYMORE!
GOOD-BYE!
OH MAN...
WHAT ARE YOU GRUMBLING ABOUT?
So blunt.
UWAA...
WELL, I GUESS YOU GET CAUGHT UP IN THESE THINGS EASILY.
.....
WHAT, COULD IT BE THAT YOU'VE REALLY FALLEN FOR HIM?

"HE SLEPT WITH A GUY"
ABOUT WHAT HE SAID...
WAVE
W-WH-WHAT...!?
H-HEY...
W-WAIT!
I-IT'S NOT LIKE...
WAVE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET SO WORKED UP ABOUT IT...
GYA!!
Huhhh!?
5
UMP!
WELL, EVERYONE'S FREE TO LIKE WHOEVER THEY WANT.
I'M NOT GONNA TELL YOU WHAT AND WHAT NOT TO DO
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED...
BUT I DON'T KNOW IF WHAT HE SAID IS TRUE OR NOT...
Especially since he's referring to him
ATSU-SHI
Well, he is cute I suppose
REGARD-LESS OF THE MATTER, HE'S JUST SIMPLY A SPOILED BRAT...

TOUHOU ACADEMY'S HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT WILL BE HOLDING A CONCERT IN THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER
WHY DON'T YOU GO?
REAL-LY?
I JUST FOUND OUT ABOUT IT ON THE NET.
DOORS OPEN AT 2PM ON NOVEMBER 3RD. THE CAMPUS IS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT DAY.
I DON'T KNOW IF RIYA NARUKAWA WILL BE PERFORMING IN THE CONCERT OR NOT, BUT IF YOU GO, THERE MIGHT BE A CHANCE FOR YOU TO SEE HIM.
.....!
SANOTCHI, YOU REALLY ARE A GREAT GUY...
QUIT THAT.
"THEN PLEASE STOP. I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT EITHER WHEN YOU SAY THOSE THINGS TO ME."
"I'M NEVER GONNA SEE YOU AGAIN!"
RIYA

November 3rd, the day of the concert.
HE ONLY SAYS THINGS OPPOSITE OF HIS TRUE FEELINGS
THAT'S THE FEELING I'M GETTING
...SUGIURA-SAN?
WHERE IS NARUKAWA-KUN?
HE WENT OUT SAYING HE WANTED TO GET A BREATH OF FRESH AIR
OH... I WONDER IF HE'S UNABLE TO STAY STILL
SHOULD I GO AND LOOK FOR THEM?
THERE'S STILL SOME TIME BEFORE YOUR TURN, BUT THAT WOULD BE BEST.
AH, HE WENT OFF SOMEWHERE TOO.
WHAT ABOUT KOUSAKA-KUN? HE'S ACTING AS STAND-BY FOR THE TIME BEING, ISN'T HE?
SHEESH
Where could they have gone?

LONG TIME NO SEE, SENSEI!
I CAME TO SEE MY COUSIN'S PERFORMANCE TODAY SO I THOUGHT I'D GIVE MY REGARDS
YES, HELLO! HELLO!
Don't you think Mimori-san?
ALMOST LIKE TELLING HIM NOT TO BOTHER COMING!
IT'S LIKE THEY THOUGHT NARUKAWA-KUN WOULD ACT UP AGAIN AND BE UNABLE TO PERFORM
Are those two running late?
THAT'S SAKI NARUKAWA!!
Uwa.
THA-
Uwa.
.....

I DON'T HAVE THE KEY.
I DON'T REMEMBER DROPPING IT OR LOSING IT SINCE I GOT IT BACK FROM KOUSAKA-SENPAI
THERE'S A PART OF MY MEMORY THAT I'M FUZZY ABOUT. I WONDER IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO IT THEN...
IT'S GONE.
——... I'M SCARED

I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'VE BEEN
OR WHAT I EVEN DID ——

clench
I'M ME AT THIS MOMENT.
NO
I JUST HAVE TO GO OUT AND PLAY.
WELL, I SUPPOSE IT'LL BE INTERESTING ENOUGH JUST TO SEE NARUKAWA ALL PALE-LOOKING.
RUSTLE
SHUFF
...I BETTER GET BACK NOW...
What a drag.

A dad? older brother? But he doesn't look like either one
.....
AH, EXCUSE ME
WHERE DO I GO TO GET TO THE CONCERT HALL?
YES, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PLAY..
SINCE THERE'S NO OTHER PLACE FOR ME...

Episodio. 1/END

G-SENJOU NO NEKO
The Cat on G

Tooko Miyagi

Episodio.2

※ This is a portrait back when things were still innocent.

TOOKO MIYAGI'S CRAFT SERIES "G-SENJOU NO NEKO" NOW ON SALE!

AH, EXCUSE ME WHERE DO I GO TO GET TO THE CONCERT HALL?
.....
UMM, WELL I HEARD SOMEONE I KNEW WOULD BE PERFORMING TODAY...
SO I THOUGHT I'D COME SEE THE CONCERT, BUT I GOT LOST
He must think that I'm suspicious looking.
THE CONCERT HALL IS BY THE UNI-VERSITY.
...IT'S NOT OVER HERE
SOMEONE HE KNOWS?

The Story: RIYA NARUKAWA, A STUDENT OF VOCAL ■ REALIZES THAT HE SOMETIMES DOES THINGS THAT HE'S NOT AWARE OF. AT HIGH SCHOOL, A STUDENT GIVES RIYA DIRECTIONS TO WHERE HE'S GOING TO COLLEGE. HOWEVER, AN UPPERCLASSMAN AT SCHOOL, KOUSUKE, TELLS HIM, "YOU WILL SEEK ME IN THE END."

IF YOU TAKE THAT EXIT OUT AND FOLLOW THE SIDEWALK, YOU'LL REACH THE UNIVERSITY.

IT'LL BE EASIER IF YOU ASK SOMEONE THERE FOR DIRECTIONS.

AH, THANK YOU...

HE SLEPT WITH A GUY...

...WONDER IF HE'S A MUSIC STUDENT TOO.

SEEMS TO BE OLDER THAN RIYA...

He was pretty good-looking.

A GUY...

LIKE HIM...?

AN UPPERCLASSMAN AT SCHOOL...

...YEAH, RIGHT.

what he said seemed rather fake

LAUGH

?

Seems suspicious
Does he really?
...SOMEONE HE KNOWS...?
...WELL, IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, SO WHATEVER...
SCRAP
...WHERE'S RIYA? WHERE HAS HE GONE?
SOMEWHERE HE COULD GET A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.
THE GIRL ACCOMPANYING HIM ON PIANO IS LOOKING FOR HIM NOW.
PEEK
sneak sneak

You know
IT'S JUST BEFORE THE PERFORM-ANCE HE'LL GET NERVOUS.
LET'S LEAVE HIM ALONE AT LEAST FOR NOW.
Hmm?
IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME AT ALL WHEN OR WHO COMES TO SEE ME!
That's true but
...SO HOW IS RIYA DOING AT SCHOOL?
...THERE ARE TIMES WHEN HE'S FINE AND TIMES WHEN HE'S NOT...
CHISATO? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Aren't you going in?
SHH! SHH!
IT'S SAKI NARUKAWA! SAKI NARUKAWA'S HERE!
UNTIL NARU-CHAN'S HERE TO ACT AS A COVER, I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO APPROACH HIM!
I SEE
So you're the type to get stuff attuck too
wave
wave
STIFFEN!
WHEN HE'S FINE, HE COMES TO SCHOOL AND BEHAVES HIMSELF.
WHEN HE'S NOT HE SKIPS SCHOOL AND SHOWS A RUDE ATTITUDE AND SUCH
HMM...

WHILE RYA DOES HAVE AREAS OF HIS MEMORY THAT ARE UNCLEAR TO HIM,
BUT TO SAY THAT IT'S DUE TO MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES...?
SAKI-SAN
IT SEEMS SO UNREAL BUT STILL...
WE WILL NEVER KNOW FOR CERTAIN SINCE HE REFUSES TO CONTINUE WITH COUNSELING
I DON'T MEAN TO PRESS THE ISSUE
BUT THERE'S THERAPY THAT CAN CALL OUT OTHER PERSONALITIES THROUGH HYPNOSIS AND WHATNOT
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT UNTIL WE GET SOMETHING LIKE THAT DONE
...!?
HEY, WAIT... MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES...?
I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT BEFORE...!
I just thought it made him mad to be yelled at
OF COURSE I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE THAT NARU-CHAN WOULD ACT UP ALL OF A SUDDEN...
IT'S SOMETHING THAT USUALLY STEMS FROM MISTREATMENT AS A CHILD, CORRECT?
WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW OF ANYTHING?

WHEN HE MADE RIYA PRACTICE VIOLIN, IT SEEMS HE WOULD HIT HIM
NARUKAWA-SENSEI?
YEAH... WELL, UNCLE TAKASHI IS ALSO QUITE THE ECCENTRIC HIMSELF...
THEY'RE NOT CHEAP OF COURSE, SO HE'D GET ANGRY AGAIN AND HIT RIYA SOME MORE
THEN HE'D REMEMBER HOW MUCH VIOLIN BOWS COST
BOWS AREN'T MADE TO WITHSTAND THAT KIND OF TREATMENT, SO IT WOULD BREAK
That's so rash...
GUEGGA
WITH HIS BOW!?
LIKE IF RIYA DIDN'T PLAY AS WELL AS HE WANTED HIM TO PLAY, HE'D SNAP AND HIT HIM WITH HIS BOW.
YEAH, THERE WERE TIMES WHEN HE WOULD SHOW UP AT FAMILY GATHERINGS WITH A RED, SWOLLEN CHEEK...
SAKI SAN, HELLO
AH SAKI CHAN IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU YOU'VE GOTTEN SO BIG
LOOK, RIYA, IT'S SAKI-CHAN SAY HELLO
DID I HEAR SOMETHING I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO JUST NOW ?

STIFEN
!!
SUGIURA-SENPAI...?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
NA-... NARU-CHAN!!
WAH
WAH!
SA-... SAKI N-NARU-KA!...
SAKI-SAN?
WHERE WERE YOU? YOU'RE LATE!!
SAKI-SAN...
You came. You really didn't have to...
CREAK
OH, RIYA!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? THIS GENIUS PIANIST CAME ESPECIALLY TO CHEER ON THE NEW, ASPIRING MUSICIANS!

BACK YET?
NARU-KAWA'S NOT...
Step
...AH
HE'S INSIDE, BUT SAKI NARUKAWA'S HERE...
WHAT DID YOU SAY, NEMOTO!?
S-SORRY, RIYA-KUN
GO AHEAD AND SAY HE'S BEING A NUISANCE IF YOU WANT...
IT'S FINE IT'S NOT MY TURN YET ANYWAY
Besides, this is the kind of person Saki-san is.
.....?
AH NARUKA-WA-KUN YOU'RE BACK
HOW NICE TO HAVE YOUR COUSIN COME SUPPORT YOU
RIGHT
TO HAVE RIYA-KUN CHOSEN AS DELEGATE
NARU-KAWA-SENSEI MUST BE VERY HAPPY...
.....

Hm
Mmm
SAKI-SAN
I DON'T MIND IF YOU SAY IT STRAIGHT OUT.
SO PLEASE SAY IT.
WELL, I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT LYING.
UNCLE TAKASHI IS RATHER BLUNT HIMSELF.
I SUPPOSE IT'S IN THE BLOOD.
NOTHING WILL COME OUT OF PERFORMING IN THE SCHOOL'S CONCERT.
IF YOU WEREN'T SO MENTALLY UNSTABLE, YOU WOULD HAVE MADE YOUR DEBUT AGES AGO. A CHILD WITH NO TALENT.
OR SO HE SAID.

RIYA-KUN, LISTEN...
IT'S FINE IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING HE SAYS...
BOTHERS ME
CLENCH
CLICK
NARUKAWA-KUN, SUGIURA-SAN
Lence
.....
IT'S TIME TO HEAD TO THE STAGE
.....
AL-RIGHT
HEY, RIYA...
WHILE I UNDERSTAND WHAT UNCLE IS TRYING TO SAY...

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE PLAYING IN FRONT OF A SMALL OR LARGE AUDIENCE
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE AS A MUSICIAN, YOU MUST NEVER ALLOW FOR ANY FAILURE
PLUS, YOU HAD TO TAKE DOWN NUMEROUS PEOPLE TO GET TO WHERE YOU ARE.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A SMALL CONCERT AND "NOTHING WILL COME OUT" OF IT...
THE QUESTION OF YOUR MENTAL CONDITION WILL ALWAYS HANG ON THE RESULT OF YOUR PERFORMANCE
DON'T FORGET THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WISH FOR YOUR FAILURE
CLENCH!
...I WON'T FAIL.

LET'S GO!
...NARU-CHAN...!
I ALREADY KNOW...
...SAKI-SAN! WHY WERE YOU PUTTING MORE PRESSURE ON HIM!?
BE-CAUSE...
THAT FAILURE IS UNFORGIVABLE.
I CAN'T FAIL AT A PLACE LIKE THIS.
HE HAS A PRIDE OF HIS OWN
THERE IS NO NEED TO SUGARCOAT EVERYTHING I TELL HIM.

turn...
EXCUSE M-...
NARU-KAWA
—I CAN'T SHOW ANYONE ANYTHING UNSIGHTLY...!!
HEY, HEY HE'S COM-PLETELY PALE...
.....
PUNCH

I JUST FELT LIKE IT..
WHAT WHAT ARE YOU...!?
JUMP!
Heh
ARE YOU NERVOUS?
N-NOT AT ALL!
blush
Ah how complicated
He said good luck
.....
WELL, GOOD LUCK

——IN THE MEANWHILE...

THE SITUATION WAS PROGRESSING IN A DIRECTION I NEVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED——

Episodio.2/End

OKAY, WHEN THE GIRL BEFORE YOU FINISHES HER PERFORMANCE, YOU TWO GO OUT THERE AND PLAY LIKE YOU DID IN REHEARSAL.
YES MAAM.
IS THAT YOUR GOOD LUCK KEY AGAIN, NARU-CHAN?
...AH.
...
I HAVEN'T BEEN ON STAGE IN A WHILE...
...BUT I'M ALL RIGHT.

ARE YOU TWO READY THEN?
NARU-CHAN, GO OUT FIRST...
OH!
...
...
THE SOUND OF MY OWN MUSIC, AND OF MY HEART.
THEY'RE ALL I CAN HEAR.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
I'VE KNOWN THIS ATMOSPHERE
EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD
THAT MUCH I'M USED TO...

THIS IS AWKWARD.
...
...
...
SO, NARUKAWA...
HOW ABOUT HIM?
AH, THERE HE IS.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
I THOUGHT HE'D CHOOSE SOMETHING WITH MORE, YOU KNOW, DIFFICULT TECHNIQUES!
STILL, I'M A LITTLE SURPRISED HE'S PLAYING BRAHMS.
EITHER WAY IT'S SHALLOW.
HMHM
HE MUST WANT TO APPEAL NOT JUST TO TECHNIQUE, BUT ALSO PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION.
...
...
ARTISTS ARE SCARY
I GUESS CUTTING HIS FINGERS DIDN'T AFFECT HIS PERFORMANCE.
IT MUST NOT HAVE BEEN THAT DEEP.
...
TRYING TO MAKE PEOPLE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM THROUGH THAT IS LOW!
HE'S NOT SOME CHILD.

TUNING
WOW, I FEEL TENSE
BA-DUMP
LIFT

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME HEARING A VIOLIN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS SO I CAN'T REALLY TELL IF IT'S GOOD OR BAD...
BUT...
...
...
IT'S A SOUND LIKE A BUZZING...
...
...
AND IT GOES RIGHT DOWN MY SPINE...
...NARU -CHAN.

IT'S NO USE, I START STRAINING...
WHEN I THINK I DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO THIS.
WHAT IS IT, IT'S LIKE HE'S BEING PUSHED...
IT'S NOT ABOUT HIS TECHNIQUE, IT'S SOMETHING MORE...
HE'S NOT QUITE...
THE WAY HE WAS IN REHEARSAL...
WHO KNEW HE WOULD CHANGE SO MUCH ON STAGE...?
I UNDERESTIMATED HIM.
HE MIGHT EVEN BE BETTER OVERALL THAN KOUSAKA...

...HMM.
HE'S NOT BAD, IS HE?
WHISPER
HAHH
...THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN RIYA ON STAGE BUT HE SOUNDS WONDERFUL.
YEAH, HE SHINES WHEN HE'S ON STAGE.

IT'S SAFE TO SAY THE SKILLS MY UNCLE TAUGHT HIM ARE FLAWLESS, AND MORE THAN THAT IT SOUNDS GOOD.
....THOUGH I DO THINK I'D, LIKE A LITTLE MORE VOLUME FROM HIM.
WELL! HE IS STILL A CHILD
...EITHER WAY, THAT'S SOME FRIGHTENING CONCENTRATION.
DID YOU NOTICE?
HE'S TOTALLY IN TUNE.
ACCURACY WITHOUT LIMIT.
THE STAGE DIFFERS FROM THE PRACTICE ROOM. THANKS TO LIGHTS AND BODY TEMPERATURE THE WAY THE STRINGS LOOSEN CHANGES.
HIS PLAYING HAS TAKEN ALL THAT INTO ACCOUNT.
HE'S CERTAINLY THE CRYSTALLIZATION OF MY UNCLE'S TENACITY.
HE'S BUILT HIM UP A LONG WAY.
...
...

OF COURSE, AND I'LL EVEN DO IT TODAY.
I'VE COME TO GET HIM, AFTER ALL.
...I HAVE AN INTEREST IN HIM.
IT WOULDN'T BE BAD TO TEST HOW HE WOULD FARE IF HE WENT INTO
...THE OUTSIDE WORLD LIKE THIS. HE AT LEAST MERITS THAT MUCH.
...SAKI, WILL YOU TALK TO HIM ABOUT THAT...?

VIP
RAHHH
RAHHHH
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
?
DISAPPOINTED
CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
RAHHH
LOOK
OH, IT'S OVER
LOOK
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

NEXT PERSON, GO ON!
NARUKAWA!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
HE WAS SO GOOD!
MOM!
...
...
WELL DONE. YOUR PLAYING WAS SPLENDID!
DAAAZE
...
...
ZONE
...
WE'LL BE SURE TO RELAY THIS TO YOUR FATHER...
WHAPPP

NONSENSE, YOU WERE PERFECT!
BUT I'M NOT SURE IF I MOVED MY LEFT HAND PROPERLY...
UH, THANK YOU...
AH!...
HM...
...HA!
...FOR THE FIRST TIME, I SEE WHY YOU TOOK NOTICE OF NARU-CHAN.
YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR HIM.
...
...

JUST A MOMENT, NARUKAWA.
SOMEONE CAME BY TO SEE YOU JUST NOW...
I HAD NO IDEA WHO HE WAS SO I HAD HIM LEAVE.
?
HE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE A RELATIVE OR A GRADUATE...
SO I WONDER.
A MR. IKEDA OR SOMETHING.
HE LOOKED TO BE ABOUT COLLEGE
STOP, PLEASE. I REALLY DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU.
...EVEN THOUGH I SAID THAT TO HIM...

...!!
...YOU CAN COME BY ANYTIME.
AH...!
WHY...?
HE DIDN'T REALLY LOOK LIKE THE KIND OF PERSON TO ATTEND OUR CONCERT, THOUGH
HIS OUTFIT
...SORRY, SUGIURA-SEMPAI!
HEH?
SHOVE
NARU-CHAN?!
BOLT
HOLD ON TO THAT, PLEASE!
...NARUKAWA?

...AH!
IKEDA...!!

I HEARD ABOUT THE SCHOOL CONCERT AND CAME TO SEE IT.
...AHH.
HAHH!
...
...
...
HAHH!
WHY.
WHY'RE YOU HERE...?
BUT THE ROUGHLY MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRL IN FRONT OF ME WAS SO MOVED, SHE CLAPPED LIKE SHE WAS DELIRIOUS.
I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT CLASSICAL, SO I CAN'T WELL SAY,
...YOU'RE REALLY GOOD.
HAHA!
THE STAGE WAS SO FAR AWAY I COULDN'T REALLY SEE IT.
BUT I SAT IN THE BACK.
I THOUGHT IT'D BE COOL IF I COULD JUST SEE YOUR FACE TODAY.

...SEE YA.
...GOOD TO SEE YOU'RE WELL.
...
LUNGE
WA-...!
THOK

...
...
WHUMP
?!
かぁぁ
BLUSH
...
...
I FED

UP YOU GO
ARE YOU OKAY?
UM, UM...
I...
I LOST THE KEY...
...AHH. RIGHT
DON'T WORRY, I ALREADY GOT THAT BACK FROM YOU.
...
...
...

BACK...??
I GAVE IT BACK ??
OH... THE GUY WHO GAVE ME DIRECTIONS EARLIER...
...
...
UH...I GUESS I REALLY DON'T REMEMBER...?
HEY RIYA, THAT GUY OVER THERE...
SO THERE YOU ARE, RIYA!

WHO IS THAT PERSON, RIYA?
HE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE A KIRIMINE STUDENT.
...HNN?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT HERE? I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!
...SAKI
AHH!
LHH...
HO BOY
YOU! YOU'RE THE MAN WHO LED RIYA AWAY FROM SCHOOL DURING FIRST SEMESTER!!!!
GEH...
IT'S THAT TEACHER!

WOW.
RIYA, WON'T YOU INTRODUCE ME PROPERLY TO YOUR FRIEND?
...
...
...
...
HUH, WHO? DO YOU KNOW HIM?
WHEN RIYA'S OTHER PERSONALITY WAS CAUSING PROBLEMS AT SCHOOL, HE SEEMED TO HAVE AN ASSOCIATION WITH THIS MAN!
HE'S NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!
HE'S ATSUSHI IKEDA.
I ONCE CAUSED HIM SOME TROUBLE...
BEAM
OH YEAH?
I AM SAKI NARUKAWA, RIYA'S COUSIN ON HIS FATHER'S SIDE.
BY THE WAY, ARE YOU FREE AFTER THIS?

NOW THAT THAT'S DECIDED, GO ON BACK TO THE HALL, RIYA. YOU CAN'T GO HOME YET, CAN YOU?
SAKI!
S...
"MY DARLING RIYA"
HEH...?
BY ALL MEANS, BE A PART OF IT!
NOW THAT MY DARLING RIYA HAS GOTTEN THROUGH THE CONCERT ALL RIGHT, I'M GOING TO HOLD A MODEST GET-TOGETHER FOR HIM!
SEETHE!!
IT'S WHAT I DECIDED. I WON'T CHANGE IT.
YOU HURRY ON BACK, RIYA!
HMPH!
THAT OTHER GUY...
HE'S GONE
IKEDA.
WAS IT?

I'VE BEEN ORDERED BY RIYA'S FATHER IN AMERICA TO COME SEE HOW HE'S DOING.
A GUARDIAN BY PROXY, AS IT WERE.
THEREFORE I HAVE TO ASK YOU.
HOW IS IT YOU KNOW HIM?
...
...
RIYA HAD COLLAPSED IN FRONT OF WHERE I LIVE.
...HAVING CUT HIS OWN FINGERS.
LE TO
UMSTANCES,
T HIM STAY
IGHT. THEN
M TIME TO
SINCE...
HMM
...DO YOU KNOW THE "OTHER RIYA?"
SAAAKI!! ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
I KNOW HIM.
YES.
OTHER

DO YOU ASSOCIATE WITH HIM, TOO?
...I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT ONE HAS AN EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT.
HE COMES BY MY PLACE TO SEE ME...
...
WHAT IS IT YOU DO?
I'M A COLLEGE STUDENT. MEIKEI UNIVERSITY, SOPHOMORE ECONOMICS MAJOR.
DO YOU LIVE ALONE? OR WITH YOUR FAMILY?
BARRAGE OF QUESTIONS.
MY FAMILY LIVES IN CHIBA, BUT I LIVE HERE ALONE TO GO TO A BETTER SCHOOL...
EMERGENCY
??
HAHA

SEMPAI
...EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT.
WOULD YOU MIND GOING ON AHEAD?
THANKS FOR EARLIER...
...IF I'D STAYED LIKE THAT I MIGHT NOT HAVE DONE WELL.
...
...I'M QUITE GRATEFUL.

THANK YOU V...
WHAM
IS HE YOUR KEY MAN?
WHA...
I SAW HIM OUTSIDE
IT'S AHM, ISN'T IT? I DIDN'T FIGURE IT'D BE A WOMAN.
YANK

DON'T PICK THE WRONG PARTNER.
RELEASE
...NARUKAWA?
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
...I'M SORRY.
IT'S NOTHING.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH KOUSAKA?
WIPE
...

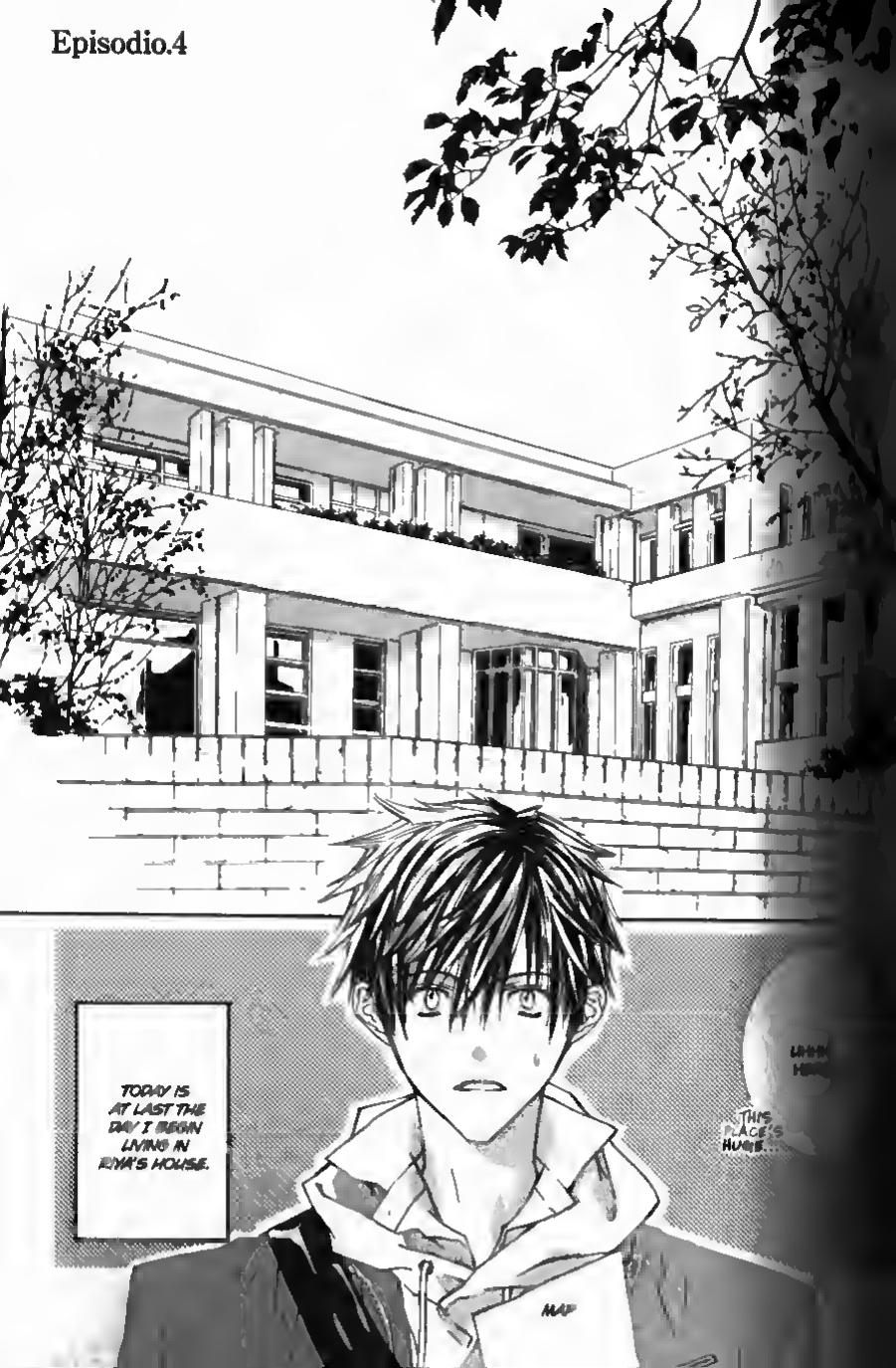
I WANT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.
WHY DO YOU CARE ABOUT RIYA?
WHAT DO A MUSICIAN HIGH SCHOOLER AND AN ORDINARY COLLEGE STUDENT HAVE IN COMMON?
"WHY?"
WHY INDEED? IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE...
HE'S JUST ALWAYS ON MY MIND,
AND I FEEL I SHOULDN'T LEAVE HIM ALONE.
...
...

...
NO, FORGET THAT QUESTION
IF YOU LIVE ALONE, CAN YOU DO HOUSEWORK?
FLUSTER
HUH?
IS THAT SIMPLY GOOD WILL?
POOR COLLEGE STUDENT
I CAN DO THE USUAL THINGS...
AND I COOK FOR MYSELF.
THAT'S CONVENIENT.
RIYA'S PARENTS ARE BOTH IN AMERICA AND HE CURRENTLY LIVES ALONE.
THEY INTENDED TO HAVE HIM STUDY ABROAD THERE, BUT I...DISAGREE SOMEWHAT WITH HIS FATHER.
IN TRUTH HE SHOULD BE PUT INTO A DORM.
OR ELSE...

AS THE NARUKAWA FAMILY LIVE-IN HOUSEKEEPER.
WOULD YOU LIKE A JOB?
A HOUSEKEEPER COMES TO THE HOUSE ONCE A WEEK, AND MEALS ARE TAKEN CARE OF BY SCHOOL FOOD OR ELSE CATERING
...HERE IS MY PROPOSAL TO YOU.
HOUSEKEEPER...?
LIVE-
I'LL PAY YOU 80,000 YEN A WEEK FROM MY POCKET MONEY. HOW ABOUT IT?
...
...
...
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS TAKE SIMPLE CARE OF RIYA
NATURALLY, ONLY TO TH EXTENT THA IT DOES NOT IMPED YOUR STUDIES.
OTHER THAN THAT, REPORT TO ME ON RIYA'S SITUATION AS I CAN'T HELP WORRYING OVER HIM...

ALWAYS ALONE...
ISN'T ANYONE ELSE HOME - OVER THERE? IT'S SO LATE YET NO ONE'S ANSWERED THE PHONE.
EMPTY ...?
...
...
PLEASE ALLOW ME.
...
...I'LL DO IT.

Episodio.4


TODAY IS AT LAST THE DAY I BEGIN LIVING IN RYA'S HOUSE.
THIS PLACE'S HUGE...
MAP

DING DONG!
TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT SURE IF RIYA CONSENTED...
THIS WAS UPON SAKI'S PUSHY PROPOSITION.
SO, RIYA, WE AIM TO HAVE YOU STUDY ABROAD BACK IN NY COME NEXT YEAR.
WE WILL PREPARE THE WAY FOR YOU, SO WE WISH FOR YOU TO HAVE THE SAME INTENTION.
RIYA.
B-BUT...
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO LIVE WITH MY UNCLE, YOU CAN LIVE IN A DORM.
I'LL SUPPORT YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN.
NOT SATISFY...? I MEAN...
WE INTEND TO COMPROMISE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. DOES THAT NOT SATISFY YOU?
...RIYA.

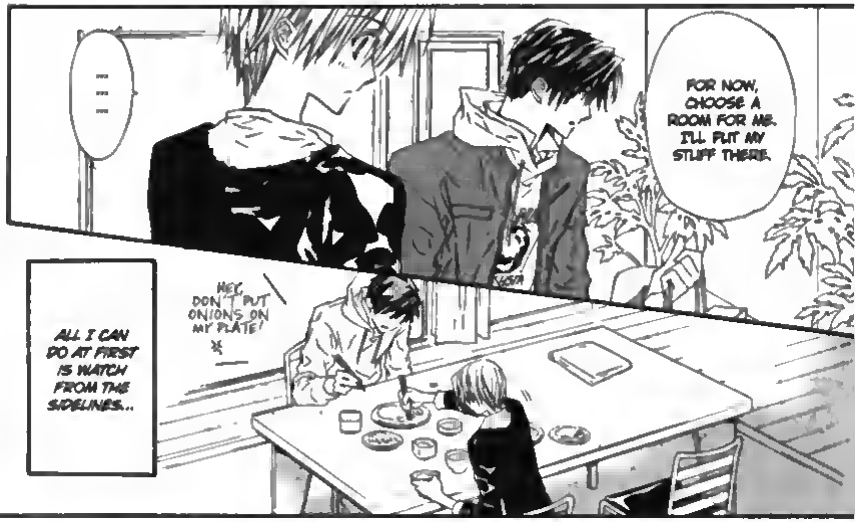
YOU DON'T WANT TO COME BACK WITHIN UNCLE'S REACH, DO YOU?
TWITCH
NOBODY WANTS TO BE BEATEN UP.
...
WHIP
STAYING IN JAPAN WON'T AMOUNT TO ANYTHING.
IN THIS WORLD, NO MATTER WHAT MUSICIAN YOU'VE LEARNED FROM, WHOSE STUDENT YOU ARE AND WHAT KIND OF CONNECTION YOU HAVE TO THEM ARE ESSENTIAL.
...BUT YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS TOO.

I DON'T THINK ANYONE WILL HIRE A RICH BOY LIKE YOU WHO CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
FIRST OF ALL, WHAT CAN YOU DO ON YOUR OWN?
WILL YOU LEAVE HOME, QUIT SCHOOL, AND LOOK FOR A JOB?
EVEN IF UNCLE SAYS SOMETHING, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE HIM.
SO, YOU CAN LIVE IN A DORM.
CLENCH
SAID RYA IN A VOICE THAT THREATENED TO VANISH,
AND WITH A PALE FACE FELL INTO SILENCE.
...I KNOW.
ALL RIGHT, NEMOTO, TAKE CARE OF THE PAPERWORK..
THE POINT OF ALL THAT... WAS THE ABUSE...
RYA WAS ASHAMED THAT I HEARD THAT DISCUSSION...

...I WANT TO DO AT LEAST SOMETHING FOR HIM,
SO HE WON'T HAVE TO SHOULDER ALL THE BURDEN.
CRUNCH
CREE
OH...
RITA
=
...OH, IT'S YOU.
YOU'RE REALLY HERE?

COME ON IN IF YOU'RE COMING.
...
IKEDA
HUH?
HUH?
WHAT, I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH?
...ARE YOU REALLY GONNA LIVE HERE?
...IT REALLY IS HUGE.
ALSO, WHICH ROOM SHOULD I USE TO SLEEP IN?
WHIP
GOT ME!
YEAH, MY JOB'S COOKING AND CLEANING...
AND LAUNDRY. HOW'S THAT WORK?
WHIP
I DON'T KNOW!

THEN IT'S GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH ME.
SULK
RUMMMMBLE
YOU'RE HERE TO TAKE CARE OF AHM, AREN'T YOU?
PAT
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH OF YOU IT IS.
I MAKE NO WEIRD DISTINCTION.
HUHH?!


...
FOR NOW, CHOOSE A ROOM FOR ME. I'LL PUT MY STUFF THERE.
HEY, DON'T PUT ONIONS ON MY PLATE!
ALL I CAN DO AT FIRST IS WATCH FROM THE SIDELINES...

IN REGARDS TO RIYA, HIS PERSONALITY HAS SHIFTED. (I'LL REFER TO THE VIOLINIST AS WHITE AND THE OTHER ONE AS BLACK).
WHEN I GOT TO THE HOUSE TODAY, HE WAS ALREADY BLACK.
THERE ISN'T ANY PROBLEM ESPECIALLY, BUT IF ANYTHING HAPPENS I'LL CONTACT YOU AGAIN.
...LIKE THIS, I GUESS??
click
click
click
DEAR SAKI,
THIS IS IKEDA. I STARTED LIVING HERE TODAY...

I'M NOT GOING.
..RIM, DON'T YOU HAVE SCHOOL TOMORROW?
WHAT TIME DO YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE?
TODAY IS SUNDAY
IS THAT TRUE?
THEY DON'T!
ANYWAY, I'M NOT GOING!
NO!
THEY DON'T!
BUT DON'T MUSICIANS ALSO HAVE REGULAR CLASSES?
LIKE ENGLISH?
NOT GOING? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I CAN'T PLAY THE VIOLIN ANYWAY, SO GOING WOULD BE POINTLESS.
ROLL
I'LL GET UP AT 6 TOMORROW

HE REALLY IS LIKE A CAT. HE JUST CRAWLS IN ON HIS OWN...
...BUT, IT'S WARM SO WHATEVER.
WHAT...?
EH...
...Y'KNOW.
TOUCH
WHY'S RIYA SLEEPING NEXT TO ME...?
...
...
...!!!
WHOA!

GYAHHHHH!!!!
HL... WHAT...
KEEP IT DOWN...
STILL TIR...
SQUIRM
D-DON'T FALL BACK ASLEEP!!!
Y-YO... YOU...
WHY'RE YOU SLEEPING HERE?!
SULK
I TOLD YOU...
I'M STILL TIRED
...IT WAS A LITTLE COLD LAST NIGHT.
I THOUGHT I'D SLEEP AND WENT BACK TO MY ROOM, BUT THE BED WAS COLD.
SO YOU CLIMBED IN WITH ME.

...
WELL, HIS CLOTHES HAVE BUTTONS ALL OVER THEM.
PAIN IN THE...
UGH...
HAHH!
AND THAT'S MY NEW T-SHIRT!!
YOU DON'T JUST CRAWL INTO SOMEONE'S BED UN-ANNOUNCED!
RIGHT, RIGHT.
ENHH?
I'M NOT GOIN' TO SCHOOL...
GRAHHH!!
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU GO!!
I WON'T ALLOW THAT!!
FINE. I KNOW WELL ENOUGH WHAT YOUR PERSONALITY'S LIKE...
IN ANY CASE, WASH YOUR FACE AND CHANGE INTO YOUR UNIFORM.
KN
GRUMBLE
HAHH!
HAHH!

BATHUMP
IT WAS ONLY LIKE A CAT CLIMBING INTO BED WITH ME...
...WHY AM I SO WORKED UP?
BATHUMP
BATHUMP
IT'S ALL RIGHT. FINE. NO PROBLEM...
SLAM
YOU...DON'T TELL ME YOU CAN'T TIE A NECKTIE...?
Well
NOPE.
...
...!!!
I CAN'T STAND IT CHOKING ME. THIS'LL DO.
GAHHH!
NO IT WON'T!! COME HERE!!

CAN'T YOU DO IT FROM THE FRONT?
WHATEVER THOUGH
I WON'T GET IT RIGHT IF I HAVE TO THINK BACKWARDS.
HIS NECK'S THIN...
AROUND YOUR NECK...
YEAH.
HUH...
IT'S A VIOLIN CALLUS OR A MARK...
HE HOLDS IT FUNNY.
THERE'S ONE ON MY COLLARBONE TOO.

WANNA SEE?
BADUMP
HUH...
MUNCH
DROP
WEEP
SOB
BADUMP BADUMP
...SO WHY AM I GETTING SO WORKED UP...?
...
...
...
...ALL RIGHT.
HAVE A GOOD DAY.
...I DON'T NEED TO SEE YOU THERE
NO, I'M NOT A KID.
...
...
...
I'LL GO, ALL RIGHT?!

...HAHHHH!
I... I'M WORN OUT...
COLLAPSE
WHUMP
...LIKE I'D FINALLY GO TO SCHOOL.
THAT'S HOW MY DAILY LIFE WITH RIYA STARTED OUT.
AHA.
YOU'RE SKIPPING, KOUSAKA!

YOUR TEACHER WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
SUNNURA
...
...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE, ANYWAY...?
THE FRESHMAN CLASS-ROOM...?
...NARU-CHAN'S AWAY FROM SCHOOL, YOU KNOW.
A FRESHMAN IN MY COURSE SAID HE HASN'T COME BACK SINCE THE DAY OF THE CONCERT.
...OH YEAH?
...
...
...HEY, KOUSAKA.

...YOU REALLY ARE INTERESTED IN HIM.
...
...
HUH?
...
...
...
BUT YOUR EYES ARE ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR HIM.
YOU BULLY HIM LIKE A CHILD.
...I HEARD THIS A WHILE AGO.
WHEN NARU-CHAN WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, HE WASN'T SURE WHAT PATH TO TAKE.
THEN SOMETIMES, HE'D COME TO OUR CONCERTS AND LISTEN TO YOUR PERFORMANCE.
I THINK THAT'S WHEN HE DECIDED TO COME TO OUR SCHOOL.
...HE ADMIRES YOU.

I KNOW THAT.
I HEARD IT THE FIRST TIME WE MET.
UM, EXCUSE ME...
I SAW YOU AT THE CONCERT LAST YEAR.
HE WAS A RED-FACED CHILD OF A BRAND NEW STUDENT.
UM, YOU DID VERY WELL.
THEN THERE'S HIS FULLY ACCOMPLISHED MUSICIANSHIP.
HM.
...WEIRD GUY.
YOU'RE VERY SPECIAL TO NARU-CHAN.
HE'S ALSO HAPPY TO BE AROUND YOU LIKE NO ONE ELSE...
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S ALL RIGHT TO TELL YOU THIS...
...I WANT YOU TO BE KIND TO HIM.

BUT I THINK YOU'RE TRULY CONCERNED ABOUT NARU-CHAN SO I'LL SAY IT.
SO PLEASE BE REALLY NICE TO HIM...?
THE DAY OF THE CONCERT, I HEARD THIS IN THE WAITING ROOM...
...THE REASON NARU-CHAN IS UNSTABLE...
MUST BE THAT LUCRATIVE JOB OF YOURS
LUCRATIVE... I WONDER...
IT'S NOT EASY
HAHH...
HNNN...
WHAT'S WITH THE SIGH?
YOU BE ABOUT TO CHASE AWAY EVEN MY HAPPINESS SO CUT IT OUT.

RIYA WON'T GO TO SCHOOL...
...
...
...
I WAKE HIM UP IN THE MORNING AND HE GETS UP, BUT HE EATS BREAKFAST AND RUNS OFF.
AND I HAVE TO REPORT THAT TO SAKI.
AHH, WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
YOU SOUND LIKE A PARENT WITH A TRUANT KID.
ACTUALLY,
...
...
WOULDN'T IT WORK BETTER IF YOU AND HE GOT ON BETTER?
QUIT IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT... OF COURSE THE WAGES ARE NICE.
AS THE DAYS GO BY, RIYA'S ABSURDITY INCREASES...
ATSUSHI.
ATSUSHI.
I RAN OUT OF SHAMPOO. IS THERE MORE?!
THUMP
THUMP
...UNDER THE WASHSTAND.
...I MEAN!! PUT SOME CLOTHES ON!!
PLEASE!!

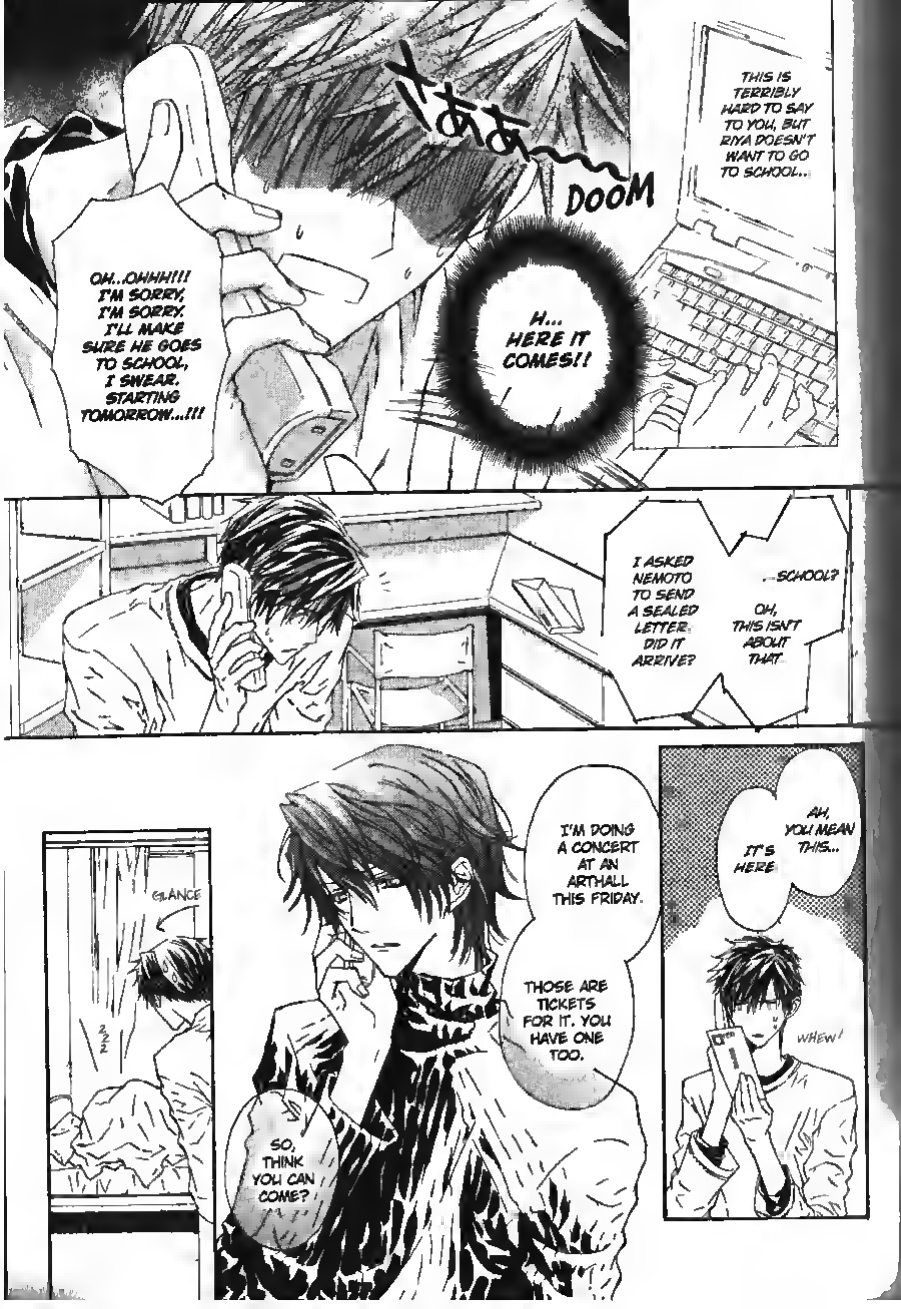
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DEAL WITH THAT OPENNESS...?
SERIOUSLY, HOW...?
WHAT, HAS HE SNUCK IN AGAIN...?
SHUFF
RIYA...?
STEP
IKEDA...
DO YOU HATE ME...?
I..
EH... IT'S "WHITE" NOW...
SILLY...
I TOLD YOU IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH ONE...
PULL
CINCH.

THUD
SHFF
I DON'T HATE YOU... OH WELL...
ZHFF
...AH!
ATSUSHI... I...
AH...
TWITCH
HN!...
HUH... HE'S BACK TO "BLACK"...
AH.
...
...
..

A DREAM?!... WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?!
DAMN, I AM IN BIG TROUBLE!!
HEHH
HAHH
FWUMP
...
...!!!!
"BLACK" IS STILL AS ABSURD AS EVER.
"WHITE" HASN'T SURFACED AT ALL...
MAYBE THIS IS BEYOND ME...
JUST "WATCHING FROM THE SIDELINES?"
GAHHH!!

Episodio 5

RIYAAA!!!
I NEED TO AIR OUT THE FUTON SO GET UP ALREADY.
RRRRING
...HELLO, CHIK NARUKAWA RESIDENCE!
HELLO?*
AH! A FOREIGNER?
HOW ARE YOU? I'M FINE, THANK YOU. *
THIS IS SAKI. IKEDA?
THIS GUY ASKS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THEM HIMSELF.
SORRY I HAVEN'T CALLED.
THANKS FOR YOUR UPDATE EMAILS.
* NOTE: SAKI IS SPEAKING IN ENGLISH.
SHFF
SHFF
...
...
AH!
NO PR-...


THIS IS TERRIBLY HARD TO SAY TO YOU, BUT RIYA DOESN'T WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL...
DOOM
H... HERE IT COMES!!
OH..OHHH!!! I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY. I'LL MAKE SURE HE GOES TO SCHOOL, I SWEAR. STARTING TOMORROW...!!!
I ASKED NEMOTO TO SEND A SEALED LETTER. DID IT ARRIVE?
...SCHOOL?
OH, THIS ISN'T ABOUT THAT.
AH, YOU MEAN THIS...
IT'S HERE
WHEW!
I'M DOING A CONCERT AT AN ARTHALL THIS FRIDAY.
THOSE ARE TICKETS FOR IT. YOU HAVE ONE TOO.
SO, THINK YOU CAN COME?
GLANCE

YOU WROTE IN YOUR EMAIL THAT HE WAS HIS OTHER PERSONALITY.
YOU MEAN RIYA? WHAT IS HIS CURRENT STATUS?
I MEAN... I'M NOT SURE...
HM?
WELL... WHEN IT COMES TO THAT, I THINK... BY ALL MEANS...
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
HMM... I'M THINKING I'D LIKE TO COME CHECK ON HIM TOO.
BUT THE STAGE KEEPS ME BUSY.
I'M NOT SURE I CAN MAKE IT.
SO, WHAT? CAN YOU TELL THAT RIGHT AWAY? COULD I?
YES, DEFINITELY.
OH, WELL THEN AT LEAST OVER THE PHONE...
WHISPER
...HEY
HEY RIYA, WAKE UP.
WHISPER
...
...
NO.

HMM. OVER THE PHONE...
I WONDER IF IN PERSON WOULD BE CLEARER...
.. OH, I KNOW.
BRING HIM TO MY WAITING ROOM THE DAY OF THE CONCERT.
HIM?
...WHAA?!!
ZZZ
YEAH, YEAH, THAT'LL WORK. THAT'S THE MOST LOGICAL WAY.
B, B-B-BUT, BUT, HE MIGHT CHANGE BACK TO HIS ORIGINAL PERSONALITY BY FRIDAY...
MR. NARUKAWA INTERMISSION IS ABOUT OVER.
THAT WOULD BE FINE ANYWAY. I HAD ORIGINALLY PROMISED TO COME SEE HIM.
DO YOUR UTMOST TO COME AND SEE MY GALA!!
THAT DECIDES IT, THEN!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU TOO AS WELL!!
HO-, SAKI...!

...EH!
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
WAI-, AH...!
CHK
BEEP
BEEP
...IS HE FOR REAL?
ZZZZ
AND SO, FRIDAY.
I PRAYED THAT HE'D SOMEHOW REVERT TO HIS ORIGINAL PERSONALITY BY TODAY...
...BUT,

FROM HIS SCHOOL ENTRANCE CEREMONY.
YOU SAID I COULD ASK FOR ANYTHING IF I CAME ALONG TODAY!
CAN WE REALLY EAT OUT SOMEWHERE?
YES, I KNOW...
I CAN'T HELP IT, THIS IS THE ONLY SUIT I OWN.
HRRRN
YAWN
FORGET THAT, WHY'D I HAVE TO COME HERE DRESSED LIKE THIS?
WHY'RE YOU WEARING THAT THING?
...IT WAS USELESS.
WELL... SEEMS THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS...
HUH, ATTIRE? I THINK ANYTHING WOULD DO... WELL, THERE'S LOTS OF ELDERLY PEOPLE, SO JEANS MIGHT BE OUT
I LOVE JUNKFOOD!!
ME, I WANT MAC!!
...
...
MAC, THANK GOODNESS FOR MULTIPLE REASONS

WHEEEE FUN!
GRAB!
CUTE
...
...
WELL, SOMEHOW THIS'LL WORK OUT..
MR. NEMOTO.
GLAD YOU CAME. THIS WAY!
AH, IKEDA AND RIYA!
I WONDER WHAT WHIM OF FORTUNE HAS YOU HERE TOGETHER WITH ME, HARUTO
...
...
YOU IGNORE ALL MY OTHER INVITATIONS

Ho Ho Ho
HARUTO GOES TO KIRIMINE, DOESN'T HE?
THAT PLACE IS FAMOUS FOR NOT BEING EASY TO GET INTO. THAT'S ONE SPLENDID GRANDSON YOU HAVE THERE, MINEKO
MY YUKI IS LEARNING THE PIANO HERSELF.
OH GRAND-MOTHER...
DEEP DOWN, YOU REALLY ARE A SERIOUS MUSICIAN.
HOW ABOUT WE HAVE HARUTO TEACH YOU, YUKI?
STOP THAT, GRAND-MOTHER.
WELL...
IT'S NOT THE SAME INSTRUMENT.
...OH THAT'S RIGHT, I THINK SAKI NARUKAWA WHO'S PLAYING TODAY GRADUATED FROM KIRIMINE.
DO YOU KNOW HIM, HARUTO?
WHAT KIND OF ANSWER WAS THAT?
YOU REALLY ARE A DISCOURTEOUS BOY.
...PAIN IN MY ASS.

HE HAS A COUSIN THERE YOUNGER THAN ME.
...NO, HE'S MUCH OLDER THAN ME.
...JUST,
I DON'T THINK IT'S TRUE, BUT...
IF IT IS, THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY HE TALKS AND ACTS FUNNY, NOT LIKE HIMSELF...
...NARU-CHAN HAS A DOUBLE PERSONALITY... OR SOMETHING...
HE MIGHT HAVE BECOME THAT WAY BECAUSE OF CHILDHOOD ABUSE
YEAH, MAYBE THAT WAS HIS OTHER PERSONALITY AT WORK.
...NARUKAWA STILL HASN'T COME BACK TO SCHOOL.

HARUTO, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
NOWHERE.
SO I GUESS I WAS THINKING MAYBE HE'D BE HERE.

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE, MY DARLING RIYA!!
NOW, LET ME GET A LOOK AT YOUR FACE!
BEAM
GYAAA!
LET ME GO, IT'S TOO WARM FOR THIS!!
PISSED
MY. THAT'S RARE, YOU RESISTING ME.
ACTUALLY, HE ALWAYS RESISTS
I, I'M SORRY, RIGHT WHEN HE'S SO BUSY.
AGGHHH!
NO, HE WOULDN'T LISTEN TO REASON
...WELL DONE, IKEDA.
THANKS
...NOT AT ALL.

SO, RIYA, YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE I'LL GIVE YOU A REWARD.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
MAC!!
HM? A COMPUTER?
HE MEANS HAMBURGERS
PARDON US, THEN.
BEST OF LUCK TO YOU.
...
...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, NEMOTO?
WELL...
IT'S DEFINITELY UNTHINKABLE THAT THAT'S THE USUAL RIYA...
MAYBE IT AS MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES...
HMM...

...IS A GOOD IDEA.
EVEN I WONDER... IF TAKING HIM TO NY THAT WAY WITHOUT DEALING AT ALL WITH THE PROBLEM...
I DIDN'T MUCH BELIEVE THAT'S WHAT IT WAS,
BUT SEEING IT UP CLOSE LIKE THIS...
SCOOT
...IS BAD.
...A BAD IDEA?
ISN'T IKEDA BEING AT THE HOUSE...
WE NEED TO REPORT TO MISTER NARUKAWA.
EVEN IF WE TELL HIM... ABOUT THE MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES, MY UNCLE PROBABLY WON'T BELIEVE IT.
IKEDA IS EFFECTIVELY ALL RIGHT.
THE OTHER RIYA SEEMS TO HAVE AN ATTACHMENT TO HIM.
...WELL, LET'S KEEP WATCHING THINGS.
THK THK
EXCUSE ME, MR. NARUKAWA
BUT..

I MIGHT REALLY HAVE NO IDEA AT ALL WHAT RIYA ACTUALLY WANTS.
UM, ROW 11 # 18...
ROW 11, ROW 11...
GO IN HERE, THEN..
HEY, WHERE'RE YOU GOING?!
TO PEE.
THE RESTROOM? THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT.
I'VE GOT TO GO, SO I'M GOING.
ALL RIGHT, THEN ME TOO...
I CAN GO BY MYSELF.

...I TRUST YOU ARE COMING BACK.
LOOK OF DOUBT
Hm!
...SAY WHAT?
GETTIN' NASTY
...WELL, AS LONG AS THAT'S NOT THE CASE.
TAP TAP
...SUCKER!
I'M NOT COMIN' BACK
IS HE REALLY COMING BACK...?

WHAT AM I, A FOOL...?
THERE WAS NO BASIS.
WHAT MADE ME THINK NARUKAWA WOULD BE HERE?
UH, EXCUSE ME, I SAW YOU AT THE CONCERT LAST YEAR...

ISN'T THAT BOY TAKASHI NARUKAWA'S SON?
HUH?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW? THAT'S THE LATEST WORD.
YOU KNOW MR. YAJIMA, HE'S A NARUKAWA PUPIL. HE REALLY FAVORS HIM...
...NO, UH, NOT REALLY...
...
...WHAT? YOU NEED SOMETHING?
...AT THE TIME I WAS FED UP WITH THIS SCHOOL.
HMM...
THERE WAS ALREADY NO LONGER ANY MEANING IN MY BEING HERE.
WOW, NICE.
I'M INTERESTED IN THE SON
EVEN IF HE'S NO GOOD.
I CAME HERE ON ADVICE FROM THOSE AROUND ME TO BE A MUSICIAN, BUT THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD JUST IMMERSE MYSELF IN VIOLIN PLAYING

OH, LET'S GO SEE!
HEY, I HEARD [illegible] NARUKAWA IS PLAYING IN THE SMALL HALL.
...OH YEAH.
THAT LITTLE GUY.
HEY, HOW...
SH!

I WAS SIMPLY OVERWHELMED.
BOW
...RIYA NARUKAWA.
...
EVEN THOUGH NOTHING MADE ME FEEL THAT WAY ANYMORE.
THAT WAS GOOD NARUKAWA.
THANK YOU, SIR.

YOU SUCK.
AH! MY NAME
...
...
IS HE GOING TO CRY?
...
...
SEEEETHE

?!
STOMP
WHAT'S WITH HIM...?
...
WELL EXCUSE ME FOR SUCKING!
HE STOMPED ON HIM
HE STOMPED ON HIS FOOT
OWW!
BEGGING YOUR PARDON.
THAT HAPPENED, TOO...
FOR SOME REASON, I LOOK AT HIM AND I JUST WANT TO PICK ON HIM

...
...SINCE THAT DAY,
I'VE BEEN THINKING OF NOTHING BUT NARUKAWA.

KOUSAKA...
GEH!...
...
...
NARUKANA?
CLAP
CLAP
...AH!... AHHH!! THEY'RE ABOUT TO START!!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

Episodio.6

KOUSAKA
STARE
WHY IS HE HERE ?
...!!
NARUKAWA..?
GRAB!
UNH
HE KNEW WHAT I WAS THINKING
THERE'S NO NEED TO RUN

WHY'RE YOU AT A PLACE LIKE THIS WHEN YOU'VE BEEN OUT OF SCHOOL?
LIM
...LIM...
OH CRAP, NOW WHAT...?
I'VE NEVER MET HIM WHEN I'M ME, AND HE PROBABLY DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT ME...
BUT I CAN'T STAND NOT KNOWING WHAT HE'S GONNA DO...
HE SHOULDN'T...
I JUST WANT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE...!
BEFORE SOMETHING HAPPENS!
OH, I... I BETTER GET BACK TO MY SEAT...
THRUST
WHY?
GYA...

N-
YEAH!!
RIGHT ON!!
NO.
LET GO.
NO.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK TO ME?
I WON'T LET YOU GO.

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

TELL ME.
SAY WHAT....? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
DID YOU HATE IT WHEN I TEASED YOU?
YOU NEVER ONCE SERIOUSLY RESISTED ME, YOU KNOW.
UH.
THERE'S NO USE TELLING ME THAT!!
IT WASN'T ME ANYWAY!!
IF YOU HATED IT, USUALLY YOU WOULDN'T COME ALL THE WAY TO MY HOUSE.
DON'T GIVE ME THAT ATTITUDE NOW.
HM?!
WHA?!

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN PUT ME ON THE SPOT?
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF TALKING LIKE YOU KNOW EVERYTHING BEFORE I'VE EVEN GIVEN MY SIDE?
SO YOU PREFER HIM.
THE GUY WHO CAME TO THE CONCERT.
YOU LET HIM DO SOMETHING TOO.
...WHAA?!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! OF COURSE I DIDN'T!
YOU HAD HIS KEY, RIGHT? THAT MUST MEAN..
ARGH!
I SAID I DIDN'T AND I MEAN IT!! WHY WOULD I WITH THAT BUM?!

THEN IT'S SAFE TO SAY THERE'S NOTHING BETWEEN YOU AND HIM?
ALL RIGHT.
THIS SITUATION'S GETTING MESSY..
DO YOU REMEMBER?
HUH?
Y.
YEAH.?

THERE WERE TIMES I KNEW IT AND WAS BLUNT WITH YOU.
SORRY FOR THAT.
AH!
OUR EYES WOULD MEET IF WE PASSED, AND YOU ALWAYS LOOKED UP IF I CALLED
IT WASN'T JUST THEN EITHER. YOU WERE ALWAYS CONSCIOUS OF ME.
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SO WORKED UP TRYING TO DECIDE WHETHER TO TALK TO ME OR NOT.
THE FIRST DAY WE TALKED...

...I GUESS TO YOU, WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY NEVER REALLY HAPPENED?
EVER SINCE YOU GOT THAT KEY...
BADUMP
UH... WHAT...
WHAT'S HE TRYING TO SAY...?
BDUMP
BDUMP
BDUMP
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE THINKING RIGHT NOW
SO, WHAT...
IS KOUSAKA SERIOUS ABOUT HIM...?
PANG
HE ISN'T PLAYING AROUND...?

I...
I HATE YOUR GUTS.
I...
YOU PROBABLY THINK YOU CAN ASK ME TO DO ANYTHING SINCE I'M KEEPING QUIET.
I CAN'T STAND YOUR CONDESCENDING ATTITUDE
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU LOVE HIM OR NOT, BUT IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME...
I'D RATHER BE DEAD
I'LL PASS ON BEING CONTROLLED BY YOU.

WHAT SUGIURA WAS TALKING ABOUT...
THE "OTHER PERSONALITY?"
...
DOES THIS MEAN YOU'RE
STAGGER
REEL
UGHH!
SOMEHOW, I GOT OUT...
I'M SORRY SAKI BUT I REALLY DON'T GET CLASSICAL
STAGGER
...RYA DOESN'T HAVE ANY MONEY SO HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GET HOME...
IS HE WANDERING AROUND HERE...?

UH, EXCUSE ME HAVE YOU SEEN A BOY AROUND HIGH SCHOOL AGE?
AFTER THE CONCERT STARTED? NO, SIR.
I SEE THANKS.
..MAYBE HE REALLY WENT TO THE BATH-ROOM?
SORRY, BUT I'M STRONGER THAN HE IS
YOU CAN'T JUST DO AS YOU PLEASE
DEALING WITH ME THE WAY YOU DO HIM WON'T GET YOU ANYWHERE.
I HATE HIM AND EVERYONE INVOLVED WITH HIM!
...
...YOU'RE SUCH A KID.
...!!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, HUH?!
YOU TALK LIKE YOU'RE SUCH A BIGSHOT...
FROM WHERE I STAND I THINK YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S CONSCIOUS OF RIYA NARUKAWA!
...WAS IT THE FIRST TIME YOU WERE BESTED AT THE VIOLIN?
BY A PIPSQUEAK YOUNGER THAN YOU!
I'LL BET YOU WANT TO HOLD HIM DOWN AND HAVE YOUR WAY WITH HIM
LOSER!

WHAP!
WHA...
AH

WHAT ARE YOU TO NARUKAWA?
...SO YOU'RE HERE WITH HIM.
TCH!
WHA...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING...?!
RIYA... WHO IS THIS GUY...? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN...?
HEY, BUDDY.
"WHAT"... AM I...? YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO JUST ASK ME THAT
HM
HE GOES TO RIYA'S SCHOOL.
I MET HIM THE DAY OF THE CONCERT.
AH...

...OKAY, THEN I'LL GO FIRST.
NOT WITH HIM, BUT WITH HIS ORIGINAL PERSONALITY...
I SLEPT WITH HIM.
SO KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF WHAT'S MINE.
...HAH?
HE SLEPT WITH A GUY AN UPPER-CLASSMAN AT HIS SCHOOL.
RIYA... IS IT TRUE, WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE.?

NO, IT'S A LIE, RIGHT...?
AS FAR AS HE'S CONCERNED...
...SAY SOMETHING, RIYA
SQUEEZE
SO WHAT...
SO WHAT DOES IT MATTER...!
...WHAT HE DOES HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!
YANK
DON'T ASK ME ABOUT HIM!!

RUN
...RIYA!
RIYA, WAIT!
...
...
GLANCE
RIYA!...

PULL
...I SAID WAIT!
WHAT IS IT...?
...WAS WHAT HE SAID TRUE?
MY HEART FEELS HAZY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, WHY WOULD WHITE...
...WAIT A MINUTE.
...MY ARM HURTS.

THEN...
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?
MAYBE HE WAS FORCED OR SOMETHING...
THEN DOES HE LOVE THAT GUY...?
I DON'T KNOW! LET ME GO!
I'M SICK TO DEATH OF PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT HIM IN FRONT OF ME...!!
AS LONG AS I'M HERE, IT'S THE SAME AS HIM NOT EXISTING ANYWHERE IN THIS WORLD !!

I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW A THING...
DOESN'T THAT MEAN I'M THE REAL RIYA...?!
...
ATSUSHI.
SLEEP WITH ME.
IT'S MY BODY. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO WHAT I WANT WITH IT.
WHA...

WHAT'RE YOU SAYING...?
I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU TELL ME.
...WELL?
THAT DREAM...
...NO.
I TRIED NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT...
DAMN, MY HEAD'S A MESS...
...
...

...
...
...OH I SEE.
...HEY.
...FORGET IT! I WON'T ASK YOU!!
ATSUSHI, YOU SUCK!
WHO CARES WHO IT IS I'M WITH?!
WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, YOU'RE TOO CHICKEN TO DO ANYTHING.
I HATE HOW YOU FRET ABOUT IT AFTER-WARDS!
YOU ALWAYS WANT TO BE THE "NICE GUY".
IT MAKES YOU A HYPOCRITE!

?!
...
...ALL RIGHT.
GRAB
...WHA!
WHAT GIVES...!
I'LL DO AS YOU WISH.

GO ON.
GO IN
...
...
REACH

PULL
GRASP
NN...
...AH

...YOU'LL NEED THESE CLOTHES OFF.
OKAY.
NO...
...WHAT, YOU'RE NOT INTO IT...
ARE YOU TOO AFRAID?
...!
...DON'T MAKE THAT FACE.
YOU ASKED FOR THIS.

...WHAT COULD THIS FEELING BE...?
STOP THAT...
...AH, ATSUSHI... NO...
SQUEEZE
WHAT?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TOUCH MINE
I DON'T HAVE TO ENJOY IT.
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D DO THIS WITH RIYA THIS WAY
I MEANT TO THINK OF HIM AS A LITTLE BROTHER

DON'T BOTHER, REALLY...
N-...
...AH
TWITCH
...WHY?
I WANT TO SEE YOU COME.
HAAH...
...
HAAH...
...
...IT'S OKAY TO BE ROUGH
YOU CAN JUST DO WHAT YOU WANT.
...WHERE DID I GO WRONG?

WITH HIM...
THIS ISN'T HIS FIRST... TIME.
...JUST HANG IN THERE.
HN...
OR ELSE LAY ON YOUR STOMACH?
...COULD YOU RAISE YOUR HIPS?
STROKE
DOES IT HURT...?
YOU OKAY?
CLUTCH
I'M FINE, OKAY...?
...FINE.

IS THIS REALLY WHAT YOU WANTED TO DO?

HO
HI-PAT
ATSUSHI?
NEVER-MIND
SIT
...?!
...WHY?!
DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG.?
..NO, IT'S NOT THAT
THEN YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO... DO IT WITH ME?

...YOU KNOW,
I HAD INTENDED TO THINK OF YOU AS A LITTLE BROTHER.
FLOP
BUT WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU DID IT WITH HIM... THAT UPPER-CLASSMAN FROM YOUR SCHOOL, MY HEAD GOT MUDDLED
I GUESS I WAS SHOCKED FROM SEEING A SIDE OF YOU I DIDN'T KNOW
IN THE END, I THINK I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW MYSELF HOW I WAS SUPPOSED TO LOOK AT YOU.
HAHA
THAT'S WHY I HAD WEIRD DREAMS AND SUCH
...I REALIZED IT FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY, THOUGH
THAT I'D WANTED YOU ALL ALONG...
...I WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE, ANYWAY...

...I LOVE YOU, RIYA.
AND I DON'T WANT TO DO SOMETHING THIS HAPHAZARD WITH THE ONE I LOVE
SQUEEZE
...
...
HUH...?
RIYA.
PAT
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE PROBABLY JUST DESPERATE RIGHT NOW.
YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE BEING TREATED CRAZILY
YOU JUST WANTED TO BE PUSHED AROUND

I LOVE YOU, BUT YOU DON'T LOVE ME.
...YOU JUST WANTED TO USE ME
SO WE'LL FORGET ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TODAY.
ONCE YOU CALM DOWN, YOU'LL REALIZE THAT THIS WAS A MISTAKE.
THAT YOU WERE UNREASONABLE.
...GO GET SOME SLEEP.
I'LL SLEEP IN THE LIVING ROOM

GOOD NIGHT, RIYA.
SLAM
...
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT AN IDIOT...!!

Episodio.7

SNIFF
WHY AM I SLEEPING HERE OF ALL...
AH!
EH...?
WHOA!
YANK
N-NAKED...? M-MY CLOTHES...?!
WHAT IS THIS...?!

GOOD MORNING!
IT'S SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH!!
THE NATION-WIDE WEATHER TODAY...
TODAY'S...
...THE 13TH...?
...RIYA.
...IT'S BEEN TEN DAYS SINCE THEN...?
BUT THE SCHOOL CONCERT WAS THE 3RD.
IKEDA, UH
WHY ARE YOU IN MY HOUSE...?
SINCE WHEN...?
HERE, SIT DOWN

...SINCE THIS PAST SUNDAY...
I MADE A DEAL WITH SAKI AFTER YOUR CONCERT TO WORK PART TIME AS HOUSEKEEPER.
...IT'S ALL RIGHT, NO NEED TO WORRY.
JUST CALM DOWN...
BUT...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
...OF ALL THE TIMES FOR HIM TO SHIFT BACK TO WHITE...
I'VE GOT TO STEADY HIM SO HE DOESN'T GET ANY FURTHER SHOCKS.
WHY CAN'T I...
REMEMBER TEN WHOLE DAYS...?
I'VE NEVER LOST MY MEMORY FOR THIS LONG BEFORE...
...

CLASP
RIYA.
SO TINY.
...YOU WERE HERE AT HOME. YOU WATCHED TV AND SLEPT...
YOU DIDN'T GO TO SCHOOL, THOUGH.
I TOLD THEM THAT YOU'VE BEEN SICK...
AND I TOLD SAKI
...I'M HORRIBLE.
BLACK IS ONE THING, BUT I DID THAT KNOWING THAT WHITE LOSES HIS MEMORY AND CONSCIOUSNESS...
WILL YOU STAY HOME TODAY..?
UNTIL YOU SETTLE DOWN..
IKEDA.

I DON'T...
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE...
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE BOTHERING WITH ME...!
BECAUSE YOU MADE A DEAL WITH SAKI? BECAUSE IT'S A JOB?
THEN YOU NEEDN'T DO SO MUCH...
...I LOVE YOU, RIYA.
...RIYA.
Suzy

I'M SCARED TO HAVE YOU NEAR ME.
IT FEELS LIKE I'M GETTING STEADILY WEAKER...!
I DON'T WANT TO DEPEND ON YOU ANY FURTHER...
WAIT, ARE YOU OKAY?
...WHAT ABOUT FOOD? AT LEAST EAT SOMETHING...
...NO THANK YOU.
.. I'M GOING TO SCHOOL.
HEY...!
I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO SEE THAT...!!
HUMILIATING.. HUMILIATING!

RRRRRR...
MOVE
...RIYA
RRRR...
KCHAK
...RRRR
HELLO!
NARUKAWA RESIDENCE!
WHAT IS IT SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?
IT WAS SHAMEFUL AND WEAK...
YET HE TREATED ME SO KINDLY, I CAN'T STAND IT...!
...OH!
THANKS FOR YESTERDAY.
SAKI?
...I SAW YOUR EMAIL FROM LAST NIGHT.

...
..
YOU SAID YOU WANT TO STOP LIVING THERE
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THANK GOODNESS, YOU'RE HERE TODAY. I'VE BEEN WORRIED, YOU WERE OUT SO LONG.
I'M SORRY...
OH... SIR
NARUKAWA!
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED? DID YOU CATCH COLD? OR...
UH, WELL.

NO, NEVERMIND.
YOU'RE HERE TODAY.
BY THE WAY, HERE...
WAIT A MINUTE, PLEASE
I STILL HAVEN'T DECIDED ON THAT...
STUDYING ABROAD... ME?
OH? IS THAT SO?
HUH...?
...HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION IS NEEDED, SO WE AT THE SCHOOL WERE ASKED TO PREPARE ONE
YOUR LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION MR. NARUKAWA ASKED FOR
...FOR STUDYING ABROAD...
MR NARUKAWA SUBMITTED AN OFFICIAL REQUEST TO US
DIDN'T YOU HEAR FROM SAKI?

I, I DIDN'T KNOW
I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD COME ABOUT SO QUICKLY, AND I HADN'T ACKNOWLEDGED IT MYSELF.
AHH.
I BELIEVE MR. NARUKAWA MEANT AS A MATTER OF COURSE TO TAKE YOU ALONG TO THE STATES WHEN HE WENT TO WORK THERE
HE HAD HIGH HOPES SINCE YOU HAD JUST GRADUATED MIDDLE SCHOOL
BUT YOU WERE OPPOSED TO GOING WITH HIM SO HE WAITED AND WATCHED
DIDN'T THE TOPIC OF STUDYING ABROAD COME UP IN JUNE?
BUT THEN YOU... WELL, CUT YOUR FINGERS AND THAT RULED THAT OUT.
...
...
MAY I...
CONFIRM THIS WITH MY FATHER...?

...UH, IT'S ME RIYA.
MOM?
OH, RIYA?
UM, WHERE IS DAD...?
RIYA, HAVE YOU BEEN OUT OF SCHOOL FOR A WHILE? YOUR TEACHER CALLED.
YOUR FATHER IS REALLY ANGRY...
...UMM, I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT.
I'M CALLING TODAY ABOUT STUDYING ABROAD...
IS DAD THERE? I WANT TO TALK TO HIM...
YOUR FATHER?
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
THERE'S NOTHING TO DISCUSS!
GULP

HOW DO YOU PROPOSE I REGAIN THIS YEAR'S DELAY OF MY PLAN?
A YEAR!! I'VE POSTPONED THIS A WHOLE YEAR, WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT?!
WHISPER
IF YOU DON'T LIKE HOW I DO THINGS, YOU CAN JUST GO AND DIE BY THE ROAD SOMEWHERE!
SLAM!
SHAKE
SHAKE
HAVE YOU GOT IT IN YOUR HEAD THAT YOU CAN DISOBEY ME ON THIS?
YOU ARE MY POSSESSION!
JUST BE HAPPY BEING MY OPUS, YOU GOOD-FOR-NOTHING!

STAGGER
...
STAGGER
..HEY
NARUKAWA!
TUG
..OH
SEMPAI

IT'S THE USUAL NARUKAWA.
...
...
...WHAT, YOU'RE IGNORING ME?
...NO, I WAS THINKING...
I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD MAKE IT ON THE STREETS THESE DAYS.
..HUH?
IS YOUR HEAD OKAY?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST SAW YOU.
..YOU SAW ME YESTERDAY AT THE ARTHALL
...ART-HALL....
...OH.
..OH, SAKI'S CONCERT.. WASN'T IT THE 12TH ..?!

GIVE ME THE 1000 YEN.
I LENT IT TO YOU YESTERDAY
EH?!
HE DOESN'T REMEMBER?
...THINGS THAT HAPPEN WHEN HE SWITCHES PERSONALITIES.
WELL, I NEED TO BE GOING...
AH... AH, RIGHT. I DON'T HAVE MY WALLET ON ME, SO I'LL GO BACK TO THE CLASSROOM AND ..
HA HA
OH, OHH, RIGHT...
WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT...?
FIDGET
... ...
EH.
...JUST KIDDING

DON'T YOU GET IT?
I DIDN'T LEND IT TO YOU.
...
...!
BLUSH
YOU DON'T REMEMBER YESTERDAY, DO YOU?
YOU THINK YOU CAN HIDE IT WITH THAT.
SHOVE
...NARU-KAWA?!
WAIT!

LEGGO!
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'—?
WAIT!
"LEGGO?" WHAT'RE YOU, A KID—?
...BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE TESTED LIKE THAT!
...I DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND THIS
...
...

PULL
JUST BE QUIET
WHAT...
RUB
...
NO "WHATS".
HOW'D YOU KNOW--?
--THAT I DON'T REMEMBER
HN?

BECAUSE YOU ACTED WEIRD WHEN I SAW YOU YESTERDAY.
...
WEIRD...?
SQUEEZE
SO YOU HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THAT GUY WHAT HAPPENED THEN...?
EVEN THOUGH I HIT YOU HARD ENOUGH TO LEAVE YOUR FACE RED.
...
...
THERE'S VARIOUS THINGS...
AFTER OUR CONCERT, I CAN'T REMEMBER.
...LIKE ABOUT STUDYING ABROAD. MY HEAD'S ALL JUMBLED...
WHAT A FOOL.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING.
WHAT KIND OF WORDS YOU THREW AT ME.
HOW I'M TRYING TO DEAL WITH YOU.
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO REMEMBER.
YOU'RE FLUSTERED RIGHT NOW, OF COURSE.
FEELINGS SO CRUEL I CAN'T BELIEVE IT MYSELF.
SQUEEZE
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL, ANY OF IT.
I WANT TO MESS HIM UP.

Stuff
HA HA HA
...I'D LIKE TO GET BACK HOME.
I AM PAYING RENT, AFTER ALL!
I DON'T MIND IF YOU LOWER MY PAY!
...IKEDA.
NO, I'LL STILL BE A HOUSE-KEEPER. I JUST WANT TO STOP LIVING HERE.
I'LL SHOW UP ONCE IN THE MORNING AND AGAIN AFTER SCHOOL.
...WOULDN'T THAT BE A HUGE PAIN? WHY?
...YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING STRANGE TO RIYA, HAVE YOU?
EEP!
IT'S HARDLY BEEN A WEEK SINCE YOU STARTED, SO WHY DO YOU SUDDENLY WANT TO QUIT?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DO SO MUCH...
HE'S NOT USING IT IN SCHOOL TODAY?
THE VIOLIN.
I'VE PACKED.
GUESS I'LL DO SOME CLEANING BEFORE SAKI COMES
WE'LL TALK DETAILS THEN.
RIYA WILL BE BACK AT NOON?
..WELL, WHATEVER. I'M GOING BACK TO NY TONIGHT SO I'LL STOP IN BEFOREHAND.
SOUNDS UNNATURAL TO ME.
WHAA...? WH-WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN...?
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

...I LOVE YOU, RIYA.
EVEN IF YOU FORGET THE THINGS I SAY.
I'LL PUT IT IN HIS ROOM.
EVEN THOUGH I WANT TO BE SUPPORTIVE,
I CAN'T GO ON BEING HERE PRETENDING THAT NOTHING HAPPENED.
AND STILL

G線上の猫

I WANT TO MESS YOU UP BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.

I WANT TO CHERISH YOU BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3

IL GATTO SUL G

AFTERWORD.
HELLO AND GOOD DAY THIS IS TOOKO MIYAGI AND THIS IS G CAT VOL. 2
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING THIS BOOK IN HAND THIS TIME AROUND
WELL A FAUCET AT MY PLACE IS LEAKING SO I BOUGHT THIS THINKING I'D FIX IT MYSELF
BUT I DIDN'T USE IT SO I THOUGHT I'D AT LEAST
WHAT IS THAT?
MY EDITOR, U-KAN.
...
...
WAHH!
PLEASE TALK ABOUT THE MANGA
SO WHEN I LOOKED BACK AT VOL. 1, THE ART WAS SO TOTALLY DIFFERENT IT SURPRISED EVEN ME.
...
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY
AFTER ALL IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE IT LAST CAME OUT
I HAD OTHER MANGA COME OUT SINCE VOLUME 1, TOO
AND VOL 3?
VOL. 3 WILL COME OUT A LITTLE FASTER
I THINK
THUMP!

NO ONE SAID THEY HATED HIM BUT HARDLY ANYONE HEARTILY SUPPORTED HIM EITHER...
ATSUSHI
KOUSAKA
I WANT IT TO BE SAID THAT HE'S HATED, BUT PEOPLE WHO LIKE HIM ARE RATHER PASSIONATE ABOUT IT
I ASKED FOR OTHER PEOPLES' (INCLUDING FRIENDS) REACTIONS.
OH, ALSO THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR THOUGHTS IN YOUR LETTERS.
I'M SORRY I WAS SO BAD AT REPLYING...
BUT IT WAS VERY ENCOURAGING SO I'M HAPPY TO HAVE THEM
LET US REFLECT A BIT ON WHICH ONE IS A BETTER PERSON
PUBLICITY
THE STORY IS PUBLISHED FIRST IN THE TAIYOTOSIO ANTHOLOGY CRAFT ON A QUARTERLY BASIS (JANUARY-APRIL-JULY-OCTOBER) SO PLEASE CHECK IT OUT
CRAFT
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KEEP READING THE STORY WITH ALL KINDS OF FEELINGS
ALSO, IT SEEMS A DRAMA CD IS GOING TO BE COMING OUT SO IF YOU RE INTERESTED THEN BY ALL MEANS...
BYE
NEXT VOLUME WILL BE THE LAST ONE I WILL DO MY BEST TO SEE THAT YOU SEE IT MORE QUICKLY THAN THIS ONE